THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) . (a) and (b) It is defficult to ascertain the precise number of terrorists who tried to intrude into the Indian territory during 1996 with a motive to indulge in sabotage. However, during 1996, 2940 terrorists/militants were apprehended and 1445 got killed while intruding through Indo-Pak border including Line of Control in J&K.

(c) and (d) Pak infiltrators have suffered heavy losses recently as indicated above.

Contribution of Agriculture in GDP

2602. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agriculture sector contributes 30 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is attributable to the archaic laws governing agriculture and lack of land reforms; and

(c) the comprehensive measures contemplated to give agriculture its due place in the economy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) As per quick estimates of National Accounts, released by Central Statistical Organisation, the contribution for agriculture and allied sectors during 1995-96 was 27% in the total Gross Domestic Product.

(b) The decline in share of agriculture in the total Gross Domestic Product over years is on account of relative higher growth in other sectors of the economy as has happened in all the economies of the world in the process of their development.

(c) The Government is implementing various crop specific and sector specific schemes, providing market and price support, making available the required inputs like fertilisers, seeds, credit etc. at affordable rates, increasing the irrigation potential, etc. so as to have faster diffusion of technology and higher rate of growth in agricultural products.

Octroi and Transit Insurance Reimbursement

2603. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to fully settle the octori and transit insurance reimbursement claims in respect of the Levy Sugar Price Utilisation Fund as per the guidelines issued by the Union Government on October 18, 1972;

(b) whether the State Government has stopped the practice of collection of octroi and transit insurance charged by the levy sugar nominee with effect from 1.4.1993; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in regard to the past arrears of the claims amounting to Rs. 3.86 crore preferred by the Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited on the Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat have requested the Central Government to permit reimbursement of Octroi and transit risk insurance in respect of the margins for distribution of levy sugar.

(c) Levy Sugar is sold through the Public Distribution System at lower than the market price so that it may remain affordable. The issue price of the sugar sold under PDs is the same throughout the country. To avoid distortions in this price structure, levy of local taxes and duties is discouraged and for this reason the Government has not agreed to reimbursement of octoroi while fixing the margins admissible to the State nominees.

Training to Youth in Fire-Arms

2604. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any instance of training of youth in fire-arms by some private dals or senas in Uttar Pradesh came to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such training is permitted under the law; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to stop such training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pollution in Delhi

2605. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the study conducted at the Tata Energy Research Institute some of the harmful pollutants in Delhi's air, responsible for respiratory disorders, will continue to increase till the turn of the century even if the Government were to introduce cleaner technologies and reduce road traffic congestion; and

(b) if so, the outcome of this study and the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Tata Energy Research Institute has carried out a study entitled "Environmental aspects of energy use in large Indian metropolises" which has suggested that introduction of cleaner technologies are not enough to reduce the energy and environment problems associated with the transport sector. The report, inter alia, states that with the growing traffic congestion and inadequate road development, demand management is critical and needs to be more vigorously used.

The Government has already taken preventive and control measures to reduce vehicular pollution, which includes the following :

- Stipulation of emission norms;
- Unleaded petrol was introduced in the four metropolitan cities on 1.4.95 for catalytic convertor fitted vehicles. The second phase would cover all capitals of States and Union Territories by December, 1998. This is likely to be progressively implemented throughout the country by 01.04.2000;
- Enforcement of standards for control of vehicular emission through State Transport Authorities;
- Government of Delhi has been impressed upon to induct more buses (preferably high capacity buses) to augment its fleet strength and to phase out the old buses;

[Translation]

Bhassagar Reservoir Plan

2606. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhassagar reservoir plan has not been sanctioned as some forest land is coming under the reservoir;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to accord permission for digging of the forest land; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cases in Consumer Courts

2607. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases registered in the consumer courts/fora during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken or propose to be taken to dispose of these cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Information regarding number of cases registered in the District Fora, year-wise, is not maintained. However, the number of cases registered in District Fora, since inception, State-wise, is enclosed as statement.

(b) For speedy disposal of cases by the consumer courts, Central Government has launched a scheme of one-time financial assistance of Rs. 61 crores to the States/U.Ts. to strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts. The Department of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution also monitors the progress of disposal of cases by the Consumer Courts in consultation with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and the respective State Governments. NCDRC has issued appropriate instructions to Consumer Courts for improving their performance in disposing the cases.

Statement

State/UT	Filed since Inception	At the end of
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	79675	9/96
Arunachal Pradesh	140	10/96
Assam	3831	4/96
Bihar	26227	10/96
Goa	2139	10/96
Gujrat	41736	9/96
Haryana	40186	9/96
Himachal Pradesh	7232	9/96
Jammu & Kashmir	6882	6/96
Karnataka	41953	6/96
Kerala	71464	10/96
Madhya Pradesh	34935	12/95
Maharashtra	60603	9/96
Manipur	611	9/95
Meghalaya	137	6/96
Mizoram	159	11/96
Nagaland	13	9/94
Orissa	14535	9/96
Punjab	15085	9/96
Rajasthan	84071	9/96
Sikkim	67	10/96
Tamil Nadu	33616	9/96